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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1862 (2009) adopted on 14 January 2009, concerning the conflict between Eritrea and Djibouti in Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island. The letter from the Secretary-General dated 30 March 2009 relating to the implementation of resolution 1862 (2009) states: "We have no information that Eritrea has complied with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1862 (2009)". In the resolution the Council also requested the Secretary-General to report, among other things, on his contacts with the African Union and other relevant regional organizations.

It will be recalled that the regional organizations have been intensely engaged since the outbreak of hostilities, trying to find a peaceful resolution to the border conflict. Lately, since the adoption of resolution 1862 (2009), several regional organizations have taken decisions with respect to the implementation of the resolution; these are:

- Intergovernmental Authority for Development, 27 January 2009
- Assembly of the African Union, 1-3 February 2009
- League of Arab States, 30 and 31 March 2009
- Organization of the Islamic Conference, 15 February 2009

I am enclosing the latest respective positions of these organizations (see annexes) in order for the members to better appreciate the growing convergence on the need to effect an appropriate decision without further delay.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Roble **Olhaye**

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Please recycle

Annexes to the letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Annex I

Communiqué of the 32nd extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development

27 January 2009

Welcomes United Nations Security Council resolution 1862 (2009) calling on Eritrea to withdraw from Djibouti territory and calls on the State of Eritrea to respect the decisions of the United Nations Security Council as contained in the resolution.

Annex II

Decision of the Assembly of the African Union on the report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa

1-3 February 2009

Further reiterates its concern at the persisting tension at the border between Djibouti and Eritrea and in the relations between the two countries. The Assembly **recalls** the decision adopted by the Peace and Security Council at its 138th meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 29 June 2008, as well as its own decision on the matter. In this respect, the Assembly **welcomes** the efforts being deployed by members of the international community, including the adoption by the United Nations Security Council, on 14 January 2009, of resolution 1862 (2009), which, inter alia, demanded that Eritrea withdraw its forces and all their military hardware to the status quo ante position, acknowledge its border dispute with Djibouti, engage actively in dialogue to defuse the tension, as well as in diplomatic efforts leading to a mutually acceptable settlement, and abide by its obligations as a Member of the United Nations. The Assembly **calls for** speedy implementation of this resolution and **requests** the Commission to maintain consultations with the United Nations and other stakeholders, with a view of contributing to the early resolution of this conflict.

Annex III

[Original: Arabic]

The tense situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in the Djiboutian region of Ras Doumeira

30 March 2009

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm the need for respect for the sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity of the Republic of Djibouti and to repudiate the aggression against it;

2. To renew its call for respect for the principles of good-neighbourliness and the inviolability of post-colonial borders;

3. To welcome United Nations Security Council resolution 1862 (2009), which calls on Eritrea to withdraw its forces immediately and, in any case no later than five weeks after the adoption of that resolution;

4. To demand that Eritrea implement all the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1862 (2009) with a view to ending the state of tension resulting from the border conflict between the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea through peaceful means and restoring the status quo ante of February 2008;

5. To call on Eritrea to transfer prisoners and missing persons to the International Committee of the Red Cross in a good-faith gesture, as the Republic of Djibouti has done;

6. To welcome the decision of the Republic of Djibouti to withdraw its forces to the status quo ante in response to the United Nations Security Council resolution;

7. To ask the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Arab Peace and Security Council to continue efforts to address the issue in a way that safeguards the rights of the Republic of Djibouti, and to submit a report on those efforts to the Council of the League of Arab States at its next session;

8. To authorize the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to make the necessary contacts with the Government of Eritrea and the African Union to address the situation, ease tensions and put an end to the border confrontation between the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea;

9. To express its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for his efforts to follow up on the issue and his timely dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the Ras Doumeira region from 9 to 11 May 2008.

Annex IV

The Organization of the Islamic Conference urges the international community to implement Security Council resolution on Eritrea-Djibouti standoff

15 February 2009

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) expressed grave concern over Eritrea's failure to comply with and implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1862 (2009) adopted on 14 January 2009, demanding the pullout of Eritrea's troops and all their military equipment to the positions of the status quo ante, and ensuring that no military presence or activity is pursued in the area where Eritrean aggression occurred in the Djibouti regions of Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island in June 2008.

The OIC recalled its decision number POL/35/34 on the situation at the Djibouti-Eritrean borders, which was issued by the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC member States held from 18 to 20 June 2008 in Kampala, Uganda, condemning Eritrea's aggression against the Republic of Djibouti. The decision called upon the two parties to uphold the status quo ante border situation, refrain from violating the sanctity of borders as drawn post independence, work out a just and peaceful settlement of the dispute on the basis of the respect of the principles of good-neighbourliness, the respect of States and their territorial integrity, and the respect of the sanctity of internationally recognized borders.

The OIC has welcomed Djibouti's decision to withdraw its forces to the status quo ante in accordance with the request by the Security Council in its official statement dated 12 June 2008 as adopted by the fact-finding mission.

The OIC has exhorted the international community to take the necessary measures to induce Eritrea to comply with and implement the above-mentioned Security Council resolution in order to achieve security and peace in the Horn of Africa.